

REMARKS

Claims 2-11, 15-17 and 35-37 are pending herein.

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 34 are canceled, claims 2-6, 11 and 15 are amended to change their dependency from canceled claim 1 to pending claim 35, claims 2-11 and 15-17 are amended for clarity, and claims 36 and 37 are added. No new matter is added by this Amendment. Support for the language added by claims 36 and 37 may be found in the original specification and claims. In particular, support for the language added by claim 36 may be found in original claim 1 and support for the language added by claim 37 may be found in claim 34.

For the reasons discussed below, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claim 35 is allowed.

Applicant herein amends claims 2-11 and 15-17 to depend from allowed claim 35. Applicant also adds new claims 36 and 37 that each depend from claim 35. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 2-11, 15-17, 36 and 37 are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as allowed claim 35.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 4-8, 11 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP 402179880 (Koketsu) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,120,846 (Hintermaier) and JP 04035033 (Adachi); claims 1, 4-11 and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,110,531 (Paz) in view of Hintermaier and Adachi; claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Koketsu in view of Hintermaier and Adachi and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,146,905 (Chivukula); and claim 34 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Koketsu in view of Hintermaier, Adachi and U.S. Patent No. 6,349,668 (Sun). These rejections are moot.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Linda M. Saltiel
Registration No. 51,122

JAO:LMS/bdh

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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